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November 15, 2013

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

FOR DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NEW RULE 69.5.1 – NATURAL GAS-FIRED WATER HEATERS AND REPEAL OF EXISTING RULE 69.5 - NATURAL GAS-FIRED WATER HEATERS

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (District) will hold a public meeting to consider comments concerning proposed new District Rule 69.5.1 – Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters and the proposed repeal of existing Rule 69.5 – Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters. Comments may be submitted in writing before, or made at, the workshop, which is scheduled as follows:

DATE:

Thursday, January 16, 2014

TIME:

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

PLACE:

San Diego Air Pollution Control District

Main Conference Room 10124 Old Grove Road San Diego, CA 92131

Air quality in San Diego County has substantially improved over the past two decades due to comprehensive efforts to reduce air pollutant emissions. Nevertheless, current State and federal air quality standards for ozone are not met in the region. Consequently, emissions of air pollutants that form ozone, including nitrogen oxides (NOx), must be reduced. State and federal laws require the District to update its rules to control NOx emissions from stationary sources as control technologies improve or control costs are reduced.

Existing Rule 69.5 regulates NOx emissions from natural gas-fired water heaters (units) with a rated heat input capacity of less than 75,000 Btu per hour, and has not been updated since its adoption in 1998. The District proposes repealing existing Rule 69.5 and adopting new Rule 69.5.1 that includes similar requirements, but with more stringent NOx emission limits reflecting the availability of lower-emitting and more energy efficient combustion technology. The proposed new rule does not affect existing water heaters, but rather applies only to new and replacement units.

Specifically, the proposed new rule will:

• Specify NOx emissions limits of 10 nanograms per joule or 15 parts per million (ppmv) for new water heaters, and 40 nanograms per joule or 55 ppmv for new mobile home water heaters.

OVER

- Prohibit the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, distribution, or installation for use within San Diego County, of any new unit with a rated heat input capacity of less than 75,000 Btu/hr that does not comply with the emissions standards of the rule.
- Require a manufacturer of any new unit to be offered for sale within San Diego County, to submit to the District a statement certifying that each model of water heater complies with the provisions of the rule.
- Require a manufacturer to display on the shipping carton and the nameplate of every new unit to be offered for sale within San Diego County, the model number and certification status of the unit in compliance with new Rule 69.5.1 or, alternatively, the most current requirements of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1121 (Control of Nitrogen Oxides from Residential Type, Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters).
- Require a manufacturer to keep emissions test records and certification records for as long as the unit model is offered for sale or sold within San Diego County, or for three calendar years after manufacture, whichever is longer.
- Provide a six-month period after the date of adoption of Rule 69.5.1 before the new rule takes effect, allowing for depletion of existing inventories of new non-compliant water heaters.

If you would like a copy of proposed new Rule 69.5.1, please visit the District's website at http://www.sdapcd.org/homepage/public_part/workshops/public_workshops.pdf or contact Janet McCue at (858) 586-2712. If you have any questions concerning the rule, please contact Randy Consolacion at (858) 586-2752 or Natalie Yates at (858) 586-2756.

ROBERT REIDER, Deputy Director Air Pollution Control District

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